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Amendment to the Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A tablet feeder comprising:

a tablet accommodating section capable of accommodating a multiplicity of tablets;

a tablet array member which is rotatably disposed in the tablet accommodating section and which, while being driven and rotated, retains the tablets one after another in pockets defined in an outer periphery thereof and discharges them at a discharge position; and

a partitioning member for partitioning tablets contained in the pockets of the tablet array member, the partitioning member including a partitioning portion having a brush-like shape and including a plurality of brush elements that extend into the pockets as ~~they rotate~~the pockets rotate through the discharge position such that the tablets retained in the pockets of the tablet array member are discharged by a predetermined number,

wherein a first ~~portion~~plurality of the brush elements located at an end of the partitioning portion are linear members and a second plurality of the brush elements ~~have a U-shape so as to provide a rounded tip portion~~have a U-shape formed by connecting ends of two adjacent brush elements so as to provide a rounded tip portion.

2. (Currently Amended) The tablet feeder according to claim 1, wherein the brush elements ~~constituting are tilted~~are tilted toward a downstream side relative to a rotational direction of the tablet array member.

3. (Previously Presented) The tablet feeder according to claim 1, wherein each of the brush elements has a cross section that is generally oval shape, and a minor axis of the oval shape is directed along the rotational direction of the tablet array member.

4. (Previously Presented) The tablet feeder according to claim 1, wherein each of the brush elements comprises a plurality of filaments that are held together so as to form the U-shape and the rounded tip.

5. (Previously Presented) The tablet feeder according to claim 2, wherein each of the brush elements is oval shaped in cross section, and a minor axis of the oval cross section is directed along the rotational direction of the tablet array member.

6. (Previously Presented) The tablet feeder according to claim 2, wherein each of the brush elements comprises a plurality of filaments that are held together so as to form the U-shape and the rounded tip.

7. (Previously Presented) The tablet feeder according to claim 3, wherein each of the brush elements comprises a plurality of filaments that are held together so as to form the U-shape and the rounded tip.

8. (Previously Presented) A tablet feeder comprising:

a tablet accommodating section capable of accommodating a multiplicity of tablets;

a tablet array member which is rotatably disposed in the tablet accommodating section and which, while being driven and rotated, retains the tablets one after another in pockets defined in an outer periphery thereof such that the tablets can be discharged at a discharge position; and

a partitioning member including a partitioning portion having a ~~brush-shape~~plurality of brush elements, the partitioning portion being disposed in the vicinity of the discharge position such that the pockets are partitioned so that upper tablets are prevented from falling into a lower portion of the pocket, and thereby the tablets retained in the ~~pocket~~pockets of the tablet array member are discharged by a predetermined number,

wherein at least two adjacent brush elements among the brush elements constituting the partitioning portion of the partitioning member are connected so as to form a ~~tip bent in a U-shape~~U-shaped tip portion.